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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 9 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, with the consent of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the text of the resolutions adopted at the 105th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Havana from 1 to 7 April 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 26 and 182, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-36887 (E) 180501 210501

Annex to the letter dated 10 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

105th CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The 105th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union* was held in Havana (Cuba) from 1 to 7 April 2001, at the invitation of the Cuban Parliament. The Conference brought together 663 members of Parliament from 123 countries and the representatives of 25 observer delegations.

In the course of its proceedings, the Conference adopted the attached resolutions.

*** The Inter-Parliamentary Union's membership was as follows as at 7 April 2001:**

Members (141)

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Associate Members (5)

Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, European Parliament, Latin American Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO MEET THE EMERGENCY SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, COMPOUNDED BY THE RECENT DESTRUCTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE BY THE TALIBAN

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 105th Conference (Havana, 6 April 2001)

The 105th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling its resolutions "Promoting greater respect and protection of human rights in general and in particular for women and children" adopted at its 96th Conference, "The prevention of conflicts and the restoration of peace and trust in countries emerging from war, the return of refugees to their countries of origin, the strengthening of democratic processes and the hastening of reconstruction" adopted at its 99th Conference, and "Action to combat the consumption and illicit trafficking of drugs and organised crime" adopted at its 100th Conference,

Recalling also the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, especially Nos. 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000), United Nations General Assembly resolution A/55/243 of 9 March 2001, and the statements by the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Calling attention to the relevant international conventions on combating terrorism, and especially the obligation of signatory States to hand over terrorists or prosecute them under criminal law,

Recalling the human rights principles to which the international community is committed, which are established in various United Nations declarations, conventions and covenants on political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and have been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Union,

Recalling in particular that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in 1993 emphasise, *inter alia*, that the human rights of women and children are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Appalled by the persistent violations of human rights in those parts of Afghanistan which are controlled by the movement known as the Taliban, especially the flagrant violation of the most basic rights of men, women and children,

Recalling the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, adopted in The Hague on 14 May 1954,

Condemning the Taliban's decision to destroy Afghanistan's pre-Islamic and Buddhist cultural heritage and their implementation of that decision despite all the appeals by the international community and, indeed, the efforts of spiritual leaders from the Islamic world,

Also condemning the fact that the areas of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban continue to be used as safe havens for terrorists and for training, planning and organisation of terrorist activities,

Deeply concerned at the fact that the territory under the control of the Taliban has emerged as one of the largest drug-producing areas of the world,

1. *Calls on* the Taliban to comply immediately with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000);

2. *Urges* all States to ensure strict compliance with all the measures imposed in resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000);

3. *Exhorts* the Taliban to respect human rights, in accordance with the relevant international declarations, conventions and covenants;

4. *Urges* the Taliban, in particular, to end the grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, and especially all forms of discrimination against them;

5. *Calls on* the Taliban, in particular, to guarantee that women and girls have unrestricted and equal access to health care, education and employment outside the home;

6. *Strongly urges* the Taliban to lay down their weapons and initiate negotiations with the Afghan Government, immediately and without conditions, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the objective of forming a multi-ethnic, democratic and representative government;

7. *Demands* that the Taliban reverse their decision to destroy Afghanistan's pre-Islamic and Buddhist cultural heritage, and cease the destruction immediately;

8. *Enjoins* the Taliban to close all terrorist training camps in the areas under their control, to surrender wanted terrorists to countries where they could be tried and to stop granting sanctuary to international terrorists and their organisations;

9. *Calls on* the Taliban once and for all to end all illicit trafficking of drugs in the areas under their control and to impose a genuine and permanent ban on the cultivation of opium poppies, the proceeds of which finance Taliban activities;

10. *Urges* the Taliban to guarantee safe and unrestricted access for aid agency workers and humanitarian supplies to all those in need of assistance in the areas under their control without discrimination or conditions;

11. *Calls on* the United Nations Security Council to condemn energetically the actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan and to appeal to UN Member States to take appropriate measures with a view to ending violations of the fundamental principles of international law and human rights in Afghanistan.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE AS ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICAL LIFE AND AS PREREQUISITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLES

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 105th Conference
(Havana, 6 April 2001)

The 105th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Mindful that more than fifty years have passed since every person's right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community was set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which also asserts that elementary education shall be compulsory and that technical and professional education shall be made generally available,

Calling attention to the right to development established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, and reaffirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Referring to the report entitled "Our Creative Diversity" by the World Commission on Culture and Development, the report "Learning: The Treasure Within" prepared for UNESCO by the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century, the World Education Forum's Dakar Framework for Action "Education For All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments", and the conclusions of the Stockholm Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development,

Aware of the many close links between education, culture, democracy and development, and *stressing* that education and culture are the basis for both democratic participation and economic and social progress,

Reaffirming its attachment to the promotion and consolidation of democracy, and *acknowledging* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the peoples to choose their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of life,

Noting that environmental issues affect both developed and developing nations and place the survival of humankind at risk,

Aware of education's potential as an engine for progress in all dimensions of development – political, economic, social, cultural and ecological, and *also aware* that stagnant education systems and undervalued cultural traditions are a threat to democracy,

Stressing that the major obstacles encountered by women which are difficult to overcome by legislation are tradition and a mode of education that impose a distinction between men and women, deny women an education so condemning them to illiteracy, and maintain them in ignorance of their political rights; as well as economic obstacles, which deprive women of their right to education,

Mindful that education is both an important prerequisite for participation in cultural life and for democratic participation, and essential to the acceptance and development of democratic values in a process which must involve every person,

Aware that only strong cultural roots enable individuals and societies to develop critical awareness, shape the present and the future and meet the challenges they pose advisedly, and that protecting and preserving cultural heritage is therefore an important political task; *also aware* that cultures are in constant evolution, and *believing* that new trends, particularly globalisation, while linking cultures ever more closely and enriching interaction, may also pose a challenge to our creative diversity and to cultural pluralism, making mutual respect all the more imperative,

Recognising that education and cultural policies must take account of universal human rights while preserving cultural diversity, and should therefore promote and respect regional, national and universal values,

Also recognising that sustainable economic and social development requires broad democratic participation, which means taking into account the characteristics of the various cultures,

Further recognising that civil society is playing an increasingly significant role, especially in culture, and that one of the most important tasks of cultural policy is to afford creative energies the scope they need in order to develop,

Aware that modern information and communication technologies can facilitate and improve access to education and participation in the democratic process,

Fearing nonetheless that the gap between those who have access to education and culture and those who do not may continue to widen, education being a prerequisite for participation in the information society,

Recognising that globalisation implies not only enormous challenges for humanity but also opportunities, thanks in particular to the fantastic expansion of information and communications technologies which facilitates wider dissemination of universal human values, *concerned* nonetheless at the widening "knowledge gap" - the disparity in the capability of countries or groups within countries to participate in the gains of technological innovations and new means of communication - and at the fact that unequal access to both new and traditional means of cultural expression can seriously affect an individual's or a community's membership in, or exclusion from, the knowledge society,

Affirming that women's rights are an integral part of the social, economic, political and cultural human rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as such may on no account be infringed,

Underscoring that international commitments to the advancement of women and the introduction of appropriate national policies and programmes are matters that lie solely within the purview of States, which have to take account of social, economic and political circumstances, cultural and social values and national traditions,

Deeply concerned that in 2000, according to the World Education Forum, more than 100 million children and young people, especially girls, had no access to primary schooling and 880 million adults were illiterate,

1. *Asserts* that education is a prerequisite for promoting sustainable development, securing a healthy environment, ensuring peace and democracy and achieving the objectives of combating poverty, slowing population growth, and creating equality between the sexes, and that culture is a fundamental component of the development process;

2. *Demands* that women be given the benefits of education, literacy and vocational training programmes, and to this end *suggests* that:

   (a) Girls' schooling must be on a par with that of boys;

   (b) Governments, NGOs and other concerned bodies should organise awareness-building campaigns to encourage families to send their daughters to school;

   (c) Schooling for girls should be subsidised and school supplies provided free of charge in order to overcome any material difficulties;

   (d) Compulsory schooling should be as long for girls as for boys;

   (e) Efforts to combat adult illiteracy should be encouraged by introducing and implementing intensive programmes, with a view to promoting women's participation in political life;

   (f) In order to encourage women's participation in political life and raise awareness of their role in politics, curricula should include straightforward instruction on such matters at all levels;

   (g) Teaching curricula should be rid of all content implying any form of gender-based discrimination;

3. *Stresses* the importance of cultural values and background to the social advancement of women and to a more balanced vision of men's and women's roles in public and private life, and the need to avoid undermining the cultural stability of societies or imposing values alien to the national culture. To that end, it would be useful to:

   (a) Foster gender equality and partnership in order to generate a synergy between men and women enabling them to cope equally with the problems of society;

   (b) Instil respect for the household duties that women traditionally perform and acknowledge that these duties should be shared between the sexes so that both may reconcile them with their social, professional and political activities;

   (c) Show examples and models of equality and complementarity between men and women, through education both at home and at school;

   (d) Make judicious use of the media to give a positive image of women's dynamic role in both the family and society; and develop women's skills and abilities by involving the media in programmes to disseminate the values and images established in national and international strategies for the advancement of women;

4. *Emphasises the need* to design education and cultural policies that contribute significantly to sustainable political, social, environmental and economic development, in particular by improving access to education and culture;

5. *Stresses* the importance of viewing education and cultural policies as key components of an independent and sustainable development policy and ensuring that they are implemented properly in coordination with policies in other fields; *urges* both developed and developing nations to reinforce environmental education in school curricula and in the media; *stresses* the important role that the media play in the treatment of issues relating to women and in shaping the dominant culture and values, and *emphasises* the need to instil in society a balanced vision of the role of women and ensure that both men and women enjoy the same cultural and political education;

6. *Underscores the need* to promote knowledge and understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity through education and cultural policies and to develop such diversity in accordance with principles that foster peace, human rights and democracy;

7. *Calls* for the adoption of cultural policies which help to ensure that every person is able to exercise his or her right to participate freely in cultural life, as set forth in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

8. *Emphasises* the need to place education high among the priorities of national budgets and to promote actively education conducive to the mastery and creative use of science and new information technologies by the younger generations and the training of teachers in science and new technologies;

9. *Strongly emphasises* that the development of education calls for a vast increase in international assistance to education in developing countries, *urges* that the latter be given all possible assistance in their efforts to promote democratic values through education, and *recommends* in particular promoting cooperation among developing countries so that they benefit from knowledge of other cultures and other experiences of development;

10. *Emphasises the importance* of ensuring the financial and social independence of women, since financially independent women are more inclined to participate in political life; and to that end:

    - To take the necessary steps to promote women's access to vocational training and the job market on an equal footing with men;

    - To ensure that women have no difficulty in obtaining bank loans and credits, and to help them to set up small companies;

11. *Calls* for the intensification of political efforts to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and *advocates* that every culture that respects others be accorded the right to equal acknowledgement of its identity;

12. *Urges* all parliamentarians to familiarise themselves with the conventions relating to women's rights and the resolutions adopted by conferences on women, to publicise them through all local, national and regional bodies, and to take account of them in national legislation and strategies to improve the status of women;

13. *Calls on* parliaments, governments and NGOs to step up their efforts to involve women actively in political and economic life, to alert developing countries to this issue and to make them aware of the need to eliminate prejudice against women;

14. *Implores* all parliaments, governments, international agencies and NGOs to acknowledge the social, political and economic impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on men, women, and children, and to actively implement and/or accelerate educational programmes to curb the spread of the pandemic and to encourage people to retain HIV negative status;

15. *Calls* for greater involvement of civil society in education and cultural policy;

16. *Expresses its conviction* that all States must promote, at every stage of education, an active civic learning process enabling all to become acquainted with their history and cultural roots, the functioning and activities of local, national and international political institutions, to become familiar with the procedures for settling fundamental issues and to participate in the cultural life of the community and in public affairs, focusing in particular on gender equality, and *stresses* that such participation should as far as possible result in ever closer ties between education and action to resolve local, national and international problems;

17. *Underscores* the importance of utilising modern information and communication media to facilitate access to education and culture while respecting the rights to freedom of opinion and freedom of information set forth in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

18. *Stresses* the need to encourage the active participation of civil society in the media in order to draw attention to the issues addressed by this resolution;

19. *Emphasises* the necessity of developing the technical infrastructure of modern information and communication systems in such a way that they can be used by as many people as possible, and of promoting new media skills through education and training programmes; *calls* for wide-ranging efforts by developed countries to bridge the digital divide by actively providing developing countries with both technical assistance and support for education in information technologies, and *urges* States to monitor Internet sites and ban access to unacceptable ones, particularly child pornography;

20. *Invites* States and other players to work actively to close the gender gap and to make education for women and girls the top priority of education policy; *urges* States to adopt cultural policies that respect gender equality and fully recognise women's equality of rights and freedom of expression, thereby ensuring their ability to participate fully in all aspects of cultural, economic, social and political life; and *calls* for the involvement of women in the preparation and implementation of general development policies, in which they are both actors and beneficiaries;

21. *Stresses* the need to implement the education policy commitments adopted by the World Education Forum in its Dakar Framework for Action "Education For All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments" and the "World Declaration on Education for All" as swiftly and effectively as possible, in particular by:

    - Ensuring that by 2015 all children, especially girls, children in difficult circumstances and children from ethnic minorities, have access to free, high-quality compulsory primary education and complete such education;

- Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in adult literacy levels by 2015;

- Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015;

- Backing UNESCO in its task of mobilising and orchestrating support for countries in their efforts to fulfil the Education for All (EFA) commitments at national, regional and international level;

22. *Calls* for regional and international cooperation in the field of education and cultural policy, in order to respond to the challenges of globalisation and technological progress;

23. *Calls* on the members of the IPU to report on the implementation of and follow-up to this resolution through the reporting mechanism established within the IPU.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S PARLIAMENTS TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM, IN CONFORMITY WITH RESOLUTION 55/158 OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 105th Conference
(Havana, 6 April 2001)

The 105th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the United Nations Charter (first preambular paragraph of UN General Assembly resolution 55/158),

Aware that the Inter-Parliamentary Union shares the principles and objectives of the Charter and that its activities complement and support the work of the United Nations (third preambular paragraph of the Cooperation Agreement between the UN and the IPU),

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts and their intensification worldwide (seventh preambular paragraph of UN General Assembly resolution 55/158),

Mindful of the importance of resolution 55/158 (Measures to eliminate international terrorism) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,

Stressing the need to strengthen further international cooperation between States and between international organisations and agencies, regional organisations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international conventions (eighth preambular paragraph of resolution 55/158),

Convinced that all parliaments can make a major contribution to combating international terrorism in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution,

Stressing the importance of taking appropriate steps to deny safe haven to those who finance or commit acts of terrorism by ensuring their apprehension and prosecution or extradition (nineteenth preambular paragraph of resolution 2000/30 of the Commission on Human Rights),

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed (operative paragraph 1 of resolution 55/158 and operative paragraph 1 of resolution 2000/30 of the Commission on Human Rights);

2. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them (operative paragraph 2 of resolution 55/158);

3. *Urges* all States and governments to renounce and outlaw the financing, encouragement, provision of training or support for terrorist activities, as well as the conduct on their territory of terrorist activities against other States, individuals or groups of individuals;

4. *Also urges* all parliaments in the world to promote the adoption of further measures in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights and the principle of self-determination, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism (operative paragraph 3 of resolution 55/158);

5. *Reaffirms* the determination of all parliaments to help strengthen international cooperation in this field in order to promote, both nationally and internationally, the adoption and application of effective measures to combat international terrorism and to repress it by prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators.

SECURING OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 105th Conference (Havana, 6 April 2001)

The 105th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Affirming the validity of the principles of international law and the duty of all States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered; and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State,

Recalling that the signatory States of the United Nations Charter are bound to respect the principles of non-intervention, self-determination, and the protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that the General Assembly is the most representative organ of the United Nations and that the United Nations Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Acknowledging that, as part of their crucial role and responsibility, in ensuring the peace, order and good governance of the peoples and territories they represent, national parliaments have a duty to incorporate in domestic law international obligations and commitments assumed in respect of peace and disarmament, humanitarian law and human rights law,

Recognising that the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organisation of parliaments, plays an important role in promoting peace and international cooperation in furtherance of and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (Article 1, UN-IPU Cooperation Agreement),

Reaffirming the importance of the observance and implementation of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law,

Recognising that any attempt to use international law, including international humanitarian law, as a lever for the advancement of politically motivated objectives seriously obstructs efforts to secure greater respect for the purposes and principles of international law,

Considering that the existence and development of nations depend to a large extent on respect for the international law that governs relations between them and on growing awareness that any breaches of it are likely to threaten them and even jeopardise their existence,

Considering that since the diversity of its sources has made international law difficult to apply in some cases, efforts to promote its codification need to be pursued,

Welcoming efforts by the United Nations to develop and update the rules of international law to respond to new circumstances, and *commending* the work of the International Law Commission, which has successfully prepared drafts of international instruments covering various fields,

Deeming it essential to respond effectively to new types of threats, in particular by taking steps to combat organised crime, narcotics production and trafficking, money laundering and terrorism,

Welcoming the development of other norms of international law designed to minimise threats to international peace and security, through the prohibition and restriction of the use of weapons of mass destruction and certain conventional weapons, the elaboration of the laws of armed conflict, the protection of fundamental human rights and the status of refugees, and the coordination of technical and development assistance,

Welcoming and *fully supporting* United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), entitled "Women and peace and security", and *bearing in mind* the specific recommendations on women and war made in the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome document of the "Beijing+5" Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Welcoming especially progress toward the establishment of the International Criminal Court, which will play a crucial role in securing observance of the principles of international law in the interests of world peace and security by providing a forum to investigate and prosecute, in cases where no State is genuinely able or willing to do so, the commission of the worst crimes of international concern, namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Underscoring the importance of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, and the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 44th session proclaiming the period from 1990 to 1999 as the "United Nations Decade for International Law",

Mindful of the resolution adopted by the 90th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (September 1993) concerning "Respect for international humanitarian law and support to humanitarian action in armed conflicts", and of the resolution adopted by the 91st Inter-Parliamentary Conference (March 1994) on "Prevention of conflicts, maintenance and consolidation of peace: Role and means of the United Nations and regional organisations", and the resolution adopted by the 104th Conference (October 2000) regarding economic sanctions, especially operative paragraph 10 urging States to envisage the elaboration of an instrument of international law codifying the humanitarian standards to be respected when economic sanctions are introduced,

Supporting recent efforts to improve protection for the rights of women and children in times of conflict and times of peace alike, in particular through recent conventions and protocols,

Urges States to respect the principles of international law by refraining from interfering in the domestic affairs of other States, in conformity with the United Nations Charter;

2. *Condemns* the use of coercive measures which would deny the peoples their right to self-determination, freedom and independence and *further condemns* the resort to the use of force in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Calls on* States to refrain from applying coercive unilateral measures with extra-territorial effects which hamper the flow of international trade and impair the legitimate right of peoples to economic, financial and trade development;

4. *Also calls on* all States to strive to settle their differences by peaceful means in conformity with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes and *reaffirms* in this context the right freely to choose among those means;

5. *Stresses* that States must strive to reduce differences between their political, economic and social systems and must cooperate with each other on all levels with a view to maintaining international peace and security, promoting worldwide stability and economic progress, and ensuring the prosperity of all peoples and all nations, without imposing any conditions;

6. *Urges* all States to consider, if they have not yet done so, acceding to and/or ratifying international instruments, as appropriate, in particular the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court and *recalls* that, in establishing the crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the latter's Statute defines rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence both as war crimes and, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, as crimes against humanity.

7. *Calls* for a complete ban on all weapons of mass destruction and on the transportation of the components of weapons of mass destruction through the air space and/or the exclusive economic zones of other countries and *further calls* for ratification of the Convention on the Total Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines, and for application of the standards thus subscribed;

8. *Welcomes* the endeavours of the United Nations in framing international instruments, particularly those of the International Law Commission, and *recommends* that such efforts be continued, taking the following into account:

   - The need to prepare the ground before proceeding with codification, not only by studying bills but also by bringing States closer together on points where their views diverge or their interests clash;

   - The purpose of codification is not merely to maintain existing rules indefinitely, but to revise them progressively, introducing any amendments needed to harmonise them with developments in international life;

   - Systems of codification must include an amendment procedure whereby a qualified majority shall suffice to take decisions that are binding on all States that have approved those systems;

9. *Urges* States and the United Nations to secure greater participation by women in decision-making relating to the prevention, management and peaceful settlement of conflicts, and to that end *fully supports* UN Security Council resolution 1325, particularly paragraphs 3 and 4, which seek to strengthen the role of women in this field;

10. *Further urges* all parliaments to ratify and implement the United Nations conventions that concern women and more particularly the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children;

11. *Urges* governments and parliaments to raise awareness among their military personnel, law enforcement agents and civilian personnel of war crimes of a sexual nature and the sanctions that apply to them.

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Security Council

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that Israel carried out the following attacks on Lebanon on 9 May 2001.

Between 1420 and 1430 hours three Israeli mortar rounds landed near the centre of Shahl, outside Birkat al-Naqqar, in Shab'a, Hasbayya district.

At 1445 hours two Israeli mortar rounds landed in the Jabal as-Sawwanah area between Shab'a and Kfar Shuba, Hasbayya district, in the liberated areas.

Israeli mortar rounds also landed in the vicinity of Birkat al-Naqqar in Shab'a, Hasbayya district, in the liberated areas. These Israeli attacks, compounding the daily sorties into Lebanese airspace perpetrated by Israeli aircraft, constitute a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, the blue line and international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Selim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-37163 (E) 140501 140501

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations and infringements that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 1 to 10 May 2001. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

29 April 2001 (continued)

At 1000 hours a hand grenade exploded in the Dashqiyah al-Aridah locality in Marj Uyun and an 18-year-old Lebanese herdsman, Ya'qub Milhim Nab'ah, was killed instantly. The body was taken to Marj Uyun government hospital. A patrol from the explosive ordinance unit proceeded to the scene of the incident and conducted an investigation. It concluded that the explosion had been caused by a hand grenade left behind by the Israeli enemy. A large number of live grenades have been found.

1 May 2001

Between 1000 and 1005 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin areas at very high altitudes. They also overflew the Nabatiyah area at moderate altitudes.

Between 1605 and 1610 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl area at very high altitudes.

2 May 2001

At 1020 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Qulaylah area at moderate altitudes.

Between 0315 and 0320 hours Israeli enemy forces at an outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several artillery shells at outlying areas of

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Majidiyah and Mazra'at Bistra in liberated Lebanese territory and two Israeli helicopters fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at the same area.

Between 0905 and 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, Mount Lebanon and Tripoli at very high altitudes. They then circled between Tripoli and Beirut before leaving in a southerly direction.

3 May 2001

At 1130 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Tyre-Qulaylah area at moderate altitudes.

At 1430 hours Israeli enemy forces fired several bursts of automatic-weapons fire from the outpost at Shi'b al-Kasir hill in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

4 May 2001

Israeli enemy forces proceeded to re-install the barbed-wire strip around the outpost at Shi'b al-Kasir hill.

6 May 2001

Between 1230 and 1325 hours Israeli enemy warplanes flew over the Naqurah area and the occupied Shab'a farmlands at very high altitudes.

At 1910 hours Israeli enemy forces fired one light-weapons round in an attempt to cause panic at the Fatimah Gate when a number of citizens were nearby.

At 1950 hours a potential Israeli enemy target entered Lebanese airspace seven nautical miles west of Sidon heading towards Ra's Beirut. At 2029 hours it circled between Beirut and Khaldah, and it left Lebanese airspace at 2115 hours.

At 2040 hours Israeli enemy forces fired four light-weapons rounds in the air in an attempt to cause panic at the Fatimah Gate when a number of citizens were in the area.

7 May 2001

Between 0950 and 1020 hours Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their outpost at Mazra'at Fashkul in the occupied Shab'a farmlands with medium-weapons fire. Two Israeli helicopters also flew over the farmlands.

At 1215 hours two Israeli enemy helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1315 and 1330 hours an Israeli enemy helicopter flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

8 May 2001

At 1650 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

9 May 2001

Between 0740 and 0745 hours there were a number of explosions in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1115 and 1130 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Marj Uyun area and the occupied Shab'a farmlands at very high altitudes.

Between 1125 and 1215 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

At 1130 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ramta outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1300 and 1405 hours two Israeli enemy helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands and then left in the direction of occupied Palestinian territory.

At 1350 hours there was an unexplained explosion in the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

At 1420 and 1445 hours Israeli enemy forces fired several 120-mm mortar rounds at outlying areas of Shab'a town in liberated Lebanese territory.

From 1935 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes. Several Israeli helicopters also flew along the Lebanese border between Ra's al-Naqurah and the occupied Shab'a farmlands over occupied Palestinian territory.

Between 1940 and 2000 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ruwaysat al-Alam outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

Between 2025 and 2035 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare and fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

10 May 2001

At 1025 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Sidon and Tyre areas at moderate altitudes.

At 1040 hours Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

Between 1035 and 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at very high altitudes. They also flew over Lebanese territorial waters off Beirut and the Mount Lebanon area.

Between 2000 and 2005 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Radar hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

At 2215 hours there was an unexplained explosion in the Mughr area of the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/55/939–S/2001/481

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 20 (d) and 46
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement dated 11 May 2001 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex).

The annex to this letter concerns the document entitled "The conceptual approaches of Kazakhstan to resolving the situation in Afghanistan" (A/55/916-S/2001/419, annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (d) and 46, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) A. G. Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

14 May 2001

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, expressing its high appreciation for the efforts deployed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, would like to hereby declare in principle its readiness to attend, under the aegis of the United Nations, the proposed peace negotiations with the Taliban in Almaty, as contained in "The conceptual approaches of Kazakhstan to resolving the situation in Afghanistan" of 26 April 2001 (A/55/916-S/2001/419, annex).

Proclaiming its agreement to the talks, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, however, in the light of the opening paragraphs of the document, is surprised by the notion expressed in the unnumbered third paragraph, namely that "the lack of positive results in bringing about an Afghan settlement is linked to the determination of the warring Afghan sides to settle the conflict solely by military means".

The above negates the facts, for, unlike the Taliban, the Islamic State of Afghanistan indeed has incessantly sought a non-military solution to the conflict during the past six years, having announced its resolve for a peaceful settlement of the crisis on various occasions. Hence, in this context, equating the Islamic State of Afghanistan with the Taliban is not only far from reality but, in fact, not fair. The report of the Secretary-General (A/54/378-S/1999/994), in which he indicates that the Islamic State of Afghanistan "repeatedly made clear to my Special Envoy and to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan that they are willing to talk with the Taliban in order to reach a solution to the country's problems", repeated also by the President of the Security Council on 22 October 1999, provide credible testimonies. The President of the Security Council made it clear again on 7 April 2000 (S/PRST/2000/12) that the Islamic State of Afghanistan "is willing to talk with the Taliban". It is sufficient to say that the same sentiment has been echoed by the United Nations on numerous other occasions as well.

What is evidently clear is that Afghanistan has fallen prey to Pakistan's geopolitical adventures, a matter not expressed with precision in the Kazakh Foreign Ministry document.

It is further worth mentioning that the popular armed resistance by the people of Afghanistan, in defence of their country's independence, noble human principles and magnanimous values, and the peace and security of the region against the obscurantist forces, which owe their origin to Pakistan, as well as against the politico-ideological agenda of extremist forces throughout the region, will be praised by the neighbouring States of Afghanistan, including the Central Asian countries. In the absence of such resistance, in the event of total occupation of Afghanistan by the Pakistan-Taliban-bin Laden axis, fostering without the people of Afghanistan the sort of steadfast and resolute campaign of liberation needed to prevent the expansion of these obscurantist and terrorist forces in Central Asia would be a difficult task requiring an enormous undertaking.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan wishes to express the following response, the numbers corresponding to the Arabic-numbered paragraphs and succeeding sections of the aforementioned document:

1. Regarding paragraph 1 and its succeeding sections, the Islamic State of Afghanistan welcomes the endorsement by the Republic of Kazakhstan of the Secretary-General's position with regard to Afghanistan, the incursions by Islamic fighters into the territory of Central Asian countries and the danger of the spread of the conflict. The Islamic State of Afghanistan also fully supports the convening of a special meeting of the Security Council devoted to consideration of the situation of Afghanistan and Central Asia.

2. The Islamic State of Afghanistan fully appreciates the views expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in this paragraph about the economic reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

3. The views expressed on the participation of all interested States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference are fully acceptable. Indeed, the need for the *Loya Jirga*, in which true representatives of the people shall participate, is endorsed. However, the term "the Council of Elders of the Afghan tribes" is incorrect, since Afghanistan is composed of ethnic, linguistic and religious (Sunni and Shia) groups and not segmented along "tribal" lines. The aim of the *Loya Jirga* is, therefore, to assemble influential and significant persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, who possess adequate experience and have considerable following among their supporters/constituents.

4. The Islamic State of Afghanistan entirely agrees with the pivotal role of the United Nations in resolving the Afghan situation. In the light of the paragraph's second subsection, it is significant to speak of "the main cause of the conflict in Afghanistan" as attributable to the Pakistani open intervention, including involvement of its military and non-military personnel in Afghanistan. In this context, putting a halt to Pakistan's military assistance to the Taliban and withdrawal of all Pakistani fighters (military and civilian) from Afghanistan must be immediately sought.

5. A scrutiny of the United Nations targeted sanctions on the Taliban reveals that none of their provisions has been imposed to target the civilian population of the country. In fact, the imposition of these sanctions will eventually force the Taliban — apart from fulfilling other obligations — to also agree to peace negotiations.

6. Addressing the second subsection of this paragraph, the notion of 90 per cent of the land under the formal control of the Taliban — publicized by Pakistan — is incorrect. In many of Afghanistan's provinces, there is active resistance against the Taliban, the latter being mostly in military control of cities and highways. Realistic estimation of the control of the land places 35 to 40 per cent of the territory outside the Taliban rule, a figure rising day by day.

With a view to responding to the third subsection, it must be stated that the presence of thousands of foreign fighters, bin Laden's Al-Qaeda Brigade and Pakistani extremist groups fighting alongside the Taliban with the direct involvement of Pakistani military personnel does not legitimize the Taliban as the "government" of Afghanistan. Any appeasement and "engagement" policy with the Taliban while foreign elements and groups are involved in the occupation of

Afghanistan is against established principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, hence an undertaking which would legitimize aggression and occupation. In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General of 20 November 2000 entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" provides ample evidence (A/55/633-S/2000/1106). Paragraph 23 states "that the presence of non-Afghan fighters, mainly from Pakistan, is significant". Paragraph 81 reads "It is deeply distressing that a significant number of non-Afghan personnel, largely from Pakistani *madrassahs*, are not only taking active part in the fighting, most, if not all, on the side of the Taliban, and there also appears to be outside involvement in the planning and logistical support of their military operations".

It should additionally be stated that Pakistan maintains official relations with the Taliban and, as has been the case, has facilitated a venue of contact with the Taliban. Yet during the past few years, when the Taliban's "office" in Flushing, New York, remained open, it did not contribute to the peace process whatsoever and only misrepresented the situation in Afghanistan, at times visibly negating Taliban leadership by systematically making false promises.

7. In the context of the Taliban's misogynist practices such as gender apartheid and feminization of poverty, violation of human rights, genocide and random targeting of civilians, other war crimes and crimes against humanity, not enough coverage has been provided by the world mass media. In fact, so negligible has it been that sadly most people, unaware of the situation in Afghanistan, assume the behaviour of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to be similar to that of the Taliban. Of course, the reality is by far different. Further, unlike the Taliban, the Islamic State of Afghanistan believes in toleration and moderation, coexistence and cooperation.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan highly appreciates the good intention behind the proposal by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan to act as a mediator without any self-interest. The Islamic State of Afghanistan fully supports the role of other interested countries and States with good intentions in the Afghan peace process. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has already expressed its readiness to attend the Japanese-proposed peace talks and also positively responded to the appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, for the holding of a ceasefire, both of which were immediately rejected by the Taliban.

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 74 (a)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the report of the fifteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura from 16 to 20 April 2001 (see annex).

After reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa and discussing the status of intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in the countries members of the Committee, the meeting undertook a thoroughgoing evaluation of the implementation of the Advisory Committee's previous decisions and recommendations. It also considered the implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena from 25 to 27 October 1999, and of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura from 14 to 16 August 2000.

The Standing Advisory Committee expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the support of the United Nations and counts on its future support so that we may achieve our objectives.

I should therefore be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the fifteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Bujumbura, 16-20 April 2001)

Introduction

The fifteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Bujumbura from 16 to 20 April 2001.

The following member States took part in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe did not attend.

Representatives of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) also participated in the work.

The opening ceremony featured:

- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by Mr. Moktar Cisse, Resident Coordinator a.i.;
- A statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of OAU, H.E. Ambassador Mamadou Bah;
- A statement by H.E. Ambassador Nelson Cosme, Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS;
- The opening address by H.E. Mr. Frédéric Bamvuginyumvira, First Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi.

His Excellency Mr. Séverin Ntahomvukiye, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, presided over the closing ceremony.

Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Interim report of the Bureau.
3. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa.
4. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in Central Africa.
5. Evaluation of the implementation of the previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.
   (a) Establishment of an early warning mechanism;
   (b) Organization of military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa;
   (c) Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX);
   (d) Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;
   (e) Establishment of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.
6. Briefing on the Subregional Workshop on Human Rights Education in Central Africa.
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa and briefing on the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
8. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa.
9. Date of the next meeting.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the fifteenth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee.

Conduct of work

I. Interim report of the Bureau

The Committee took note of the interim report presented by H.E. Mr. Luc Rukingama, Minister of Communications and Spokesman for the Government of the Republic of Burundi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Bureau at the ministerial level.

The Committee welcomed the energetic and effective way in which the Bureau had discharged the mandates entrusted to it by the fourteenth ministerial meeting with regard, in particular, to the raising of awareness among the countries of the subregion concerning the importance of signing and/or ratifying the Non-Aggression Pact, the Mutual Assistance Pact and the Protocol on the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX); the organization of the fifteenth ministerial meeting; the steps taken with a view to the effective launching of COPAX; and the establishment of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.

II. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

Angola

The Committee expressed concern at the continuing conflict in Angola, especially owing to the repeated attacks by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and their tragic consequences for peace, security, stability and development in Angola and the well-being of its peoples.

It expressed its support for the Angolan Government's efforts to restore peace, security and stability throughout the territory and to protect the civilian population.

It called on the international community to provide assistance to displaced persons in Angola.

The Committee also welcomed the Angolan Government's efforts to bring about national reconciliation, in particular the offer of amnesty made by President José Eduardo Dos Santos to UNITA combatants who turn in their weapons.

It invited UNITA to renounce the pursuit of war and instead promote national reconciliation and peace for the benefit of all Angolans under the terms of the Lusaka Protocol.

The Committee called on all Central African countries to comply strictly with the sanctions imposed on UNITA by the United Nations Security Council.

Burundi

The Committee welcomed the signing on 28 August 2000 in Arusha of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi, which is a source of real hope.

It expressed its support for the efforts of the Burundian Government and all Burundians to bring about a lasting peace in their country.

The Committee paid tribute to the efforts being made by the Facilitator and the heads of State of some members of the Advisory Committee to bring peace to Burundi, and it encouraged them to continue these efforts.

The Committee expressed serious concern at the continuation and escalation of the violence being perpetrated against civilian populations by armed groups based in some of Burundi's neighbouring countries.

It invited the countries of the region, particularly those of the Great Lakes region, to help the Burundians restore peace through dialogue and reconciliation and not to encourage violence and war in Burundi. It welcomed the talks being organized to that end between the competent authorities of Burundi and those of some neighbouring countries.

The Committee addressed a solemn appeal to all armed movements to turn in their weapons immediately and engage in negotiations for a total and permanent ceasefire.

It urged all Burundian parties to endeavour to promote national reconciliation and restoration of peace in Burundi, thereby enabling the Peace

Agreement to be fully implemented and the peaceful transition to begin.

The Committee urgently appealed to the international community to provide substantial support for the peace efforts in Burundi, especially by fulfilling the promise of assistance made at the International Donors Conference for Burundi, held in Paris on 11 and 12 December 2000.

Cameroon

The Committee paid tribute to the consolidation of a climate of peace and stability in Cameroon.

The Committee welcomed the Cameroonian Government's pursuit of a policy of dialogue in the context of the establishment of a consensus-based democracy that will promote the country's harmonious development.

It noted with satisfaction the adoption on 6 December 2000 by the National Assembly of an act establishing the National Office for the Monitoring of Elections to ensure the general supervision of all elections and referendums, and the elaboration, by the National Anti-Corruption Office, of a national programme to combat corruption.

The Committee welcomed the Cameroonian Government's determination to continue its campaign against insecurity in the cities, the commendable efforts it had made in that regard and notable successes already achieved.

The Committee had been informed that the Government of Cameroon had set up commissions of inquiry to investigate the case of the alleged disappearance of nine persons in Bépanda and the fire in a munitions depot in Yaoundé. It welcomed the preliminary findings about the cases and the steps taken by the competent authorities to bring the accused to justice.

It welcomed the Government of Cameroon's policy of good-neighbourliness towards the other countries of the subregion.

The Committee again expressed deep concern at the information provided by the delegation of Cameroon on the persistent attempts at infiltration and repeated acts of provocation by Nigerian forces on the Bakassi peninsula and other border points and again called on the two parties to refrain from any action that could heighten tensions pending the decision of the International Court of Justice, which Cameroon had seized of the matter.

The Committee, in addition to reiterating its appeal to the international community and friendly countries to assist in maintaining the peace between Cameroon and Nigeria while awaiting the verdict of the International Court of Justice, requested the Court to take the necessary steps to ensure a rapid conclusion of the proceeding pending before it.

The Committee again urged Nigeria to comply strictly with the interim measures of protection laid down by the Court in its ruling of 15 March 1996 and called upon the two parties to refrain from taking any action that could create difficulties for the application of the final judgement of the Court.

Gabon

The Committee noted with appreciation the climate of peace and political stability in Gabon.

It expressed its concern at the precarious living conditions of the many refugees in Gabon and urgently called on the international community, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP), to provide more food to these refugees.

Equatorial Guinea

The Committee welcomed the climate of peace and stability in Equatorial Guinea.

It noted with satisfaction the continuation of the democratic process in Equatorial Guinea and the favourable welcome given to the report recently submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva by a delegation headed by the Prime Minister and representing all the recognized political parties in the country.

The Committee paid tribute to the efforts of the authorities of Equatorial Guinea to promote national consensus and, in particular, the amnesty granted at the end of 2000 by the head of State, H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, to those who had committed acts of terrorism on 21 January 1998.

It welcomed the resumption of cooperation between Equatorial New Guinea and Spain, as exemplified by a recent exchange of official visits.

Central African Republic

The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic to put into effect the rules of good governance by taking firm action to combat corruption and the misappropriation of public funds.

The Committee expressed concern at the persistence of crime in the country's interior by armed gangs of "roadblockers" and noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by the Government of the Central African Republic to combat insecurity, including the following actions:

- Reinforcement of national legislation on possession of firearms;
- Campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers involved in possessing firearms;
- Organization of operations to collect and destroy illegal weapons;
- Strengthening of border control stations;
- Regulation of activities of security firms;
- Establishment of an interministerial committee to follow up the Advisory Committee's recommendations;
- Continuation of the programme on restructuring and redeploying Central African armed forces.

The Committee also welcomed the Government's efforts to ease social tensions, in particular by paying back wages and holding talks with trade union representatives.

Chad

The Committee welcomed the continuing democraticization process in Chad and, in particular, the steps taken to ensure that the forthcoming presidential elections are properly conducted.

It noted with satisfaction the Chadian security forces' successes in their campaign against armed "roadblockers" and organized crime in the cities, together with the positive results of the Government's efforts to ease tensions between livestock owners and farmers.

It expressed deep concern at the continuing attacks by the armed opposition, which had taken many lives and caused significant material damage.

It encouraged the Chadian authorities to pursue their policy of dialogue and openness towards the opposition in order to bring about national reconciliation among all Chadians.

It called on all parties in Chad to respond positively to this spirit of openness, and to give priority attention to reconciliation so as to protect the best interests of the Chadian people.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the effective launching of the Chadian pipeline project and the promising prospects thereof for the development of Chad and the well-being of its peoples.

III. Intergovernmental cooperation in security matters in Central Africa

The Committee took note with satisfaction of the actions and initiatives taken by the member countries within the framework of cooperation in security matters, aimed, in particular, at lessening tensions, combating insecurity in the border areas and facilitating exchanges between the various national structures dealing with these questions.

In view of the cross-border nature of most of the security problems in the subregion and the need to respond to them in a joint and concerted manner, the Committee again strongly recommended greater cooperation and dialogue among the security forces of the Central African countries, particularly within the framework of periodic meetings and the organization of joint operations.

The Committee particularly welcomed:

- The convening of the joint commission between Angola and the Congo, and of the joint commission between Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The signing of a framework agreement for tripartite cooperation between Angola, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The meeting between the defence and security authorities of Burundi and their counterparts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The success achieved through cooperation between the police forces of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, particularly in combating cross-border vehicle thefts;

- The cooperation between Cameroon and the Central African Republic in the training of officers of the armed forces of the Central African Republic, the police, the gendarmerie and customs officials;
- The consultations held between the administrative and military authorities of the Central African Republic and their counterparts in Cameroon to dispel misunderstandings and tensions among the peoples of the border areas;
- The organization of joint border patrols by the security forces of the Central African countries;
- The recent meeting of an ad hoc committee of the border commission for Equatorial Guinea and Gabon;
- The meeting of the border commission for Gabon and the Congo;
- The coordination meetings between the administrative and military authorities of the border areas to dispel tensions among the population and build confidence;
- The summit meetings on security questions held by the Central African countries at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

The Committee expressed its deep concern with regard to the upsurge in organized crime and insecurity in the countries of the subregion, particularly the development of the phenomenon of roadblocks. It recommended the intensification of information exchange and the organization of large-scale joint operations to combat this scourge. It recommended that a high-level meeting should be held on the question, aimed, in particular, at setting up a suitable legal framework for cooperation in the matter.

It stressed the need for closer cooperation among the security services of the various countries with a view to combating the cross-border trade in stolen vehicles.

Recalling the importance to the subregion's peace and security of the protocol relating to the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) and the Mutual Assistance Pact concluded at Malabo in February 2000 among the countries of Central Africa, the Committee recommended that the Bureau should draw the attention of those countries which had not already done so to the need to sign and/or ratify those instruments.

Aware of the need to strengthen cooperation for peace and security in the subregion, the Committee appealed to those countries that had not yet signed the agreement on criminal police cooperation, adopted in April 1999 at the meeting of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs in Yaoundé, to take all necessary steps to proceed to the rapid signing of this text and guarantee its full effectiveness.

IV. Evaluation of the implementation of the previous decisions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee

A. Establishment of an early warning mechanism

The Committee welcomed the information provided by the Gabonese delegation concerning the completion of the refurbishing of the building made available to the mechanism by the Gabonese Government.

It welcomed the fact that the keys of the building had been handed over to the ECCAS secretariat by the Gabonese authorities.

It noted with satisfaction the contacts currently under way between ECCAS and the Gabonese Government with a view to the forthcoming inauguration of the building which is to house the early warning mechanism.

The Committee was also informed of high-level contacts between the ECCAS secretariat and various international partners, particularly the United Nations Office for Project Support Services and OAU, with a view to the operationalization of the early warning mechanism.

B. Organization of military exercises in connection with peacekeeping operations between the armed forces of the countries of Central Africa

The Committee reiterated its interest in organizing joint military exercises.

It repeated its recommendation that a meeting of the chiefs of staff of the Central African countries should be convened in order to review the Biyongho-98

exercise, revise its costs downwards and determine the division of contributions among the various countries.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the offer made by the Government of Gabon to host the meeting from 9 to 11 July 2001.

A mandate was given to the Bureau to take all the necessary steps, in conjunction with the Committee secretariat, for the organization of the meeting.

C. Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX)

The Committee welcomed the adoption of the terms of reference for the early warning mechanism, the Central African multinational force, and the defence and security commission for the Central African countries.

The Committee welcomed the ratification by several member countries of the legal instruments governing COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact and called on countries that had not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify these instruments.

D. Establishment of a subregional parliament in Central Africa

The Committee was informed of the continuing contacts between the ECCAS secretariat and the various member countries concerning the setting up of the network of parliamentarians established in Malabo on 24 June 2000.

It took note with satisfaction of the information provided by the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and by the Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS with regard to the convening in Luanda in October 2000 of the meeting of experts responsible for finalizing the protocol setting up the network of parliamentarians, as well as its subsequent adoption in November 2000 in Luanda by the presiding officers of the various national parliaments.

A mandate was given to the Bureau of the Committee to continue to follow developments and to report on them at the next meeting.

E. Establishment of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The Committee congratulated the Cameroonian Government, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the ECCAS secretariat on their combined efforts for the effective establishment of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

It recommended that the Bureau and the secretariat should take all necessary steps for the early convening at Yaoundé of the meeting of experts to the documents governing the organization and functioning of the Centre.

It welcomed the offer of the Cameroonian Government to host the meeting in late May-early June 2001.

A mandate was given to the Bureau and the secretariat to transmit the drafts of the above-mentioned documents to all the member countries before the Yaoundé meeting.

V. Briefing on the subregional Workshop on Human Rights Education in Central Africa

The Committee noted with interest the briefing provided by the Deputy Secretary-General of ECCAS, H.E. Ambassador Nelson Cosme, concerning the Subregional Workshop on Human Rights Education in Central Africa, held at Yaoundé from 15 to 16 March 2001, in the context of the programme to launch the activities of the subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa.

It took note of the adoption at that time of the Yaoundé Declaration on human rights education in Central Africa.

VI. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Question of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa

After reviewing the recommendations formulated by the Subregional Conference on the Question of

Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central Africa, held at Bujumbura from 14 to 16 August 2000, the Committee welcomed the efforts made by the countries of the subregion to implement them.

In particular, the Committee noted with appreciation the establishment in several member countries of national commissions responsible for the management of issues relating to refugees and of the efforts made by the authorities of the countries of asylum to promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees in collaboration with the competent international agencies and, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

It encouraged all the countries of the subregion to continue their efforts to alleviate the suffering of refugees and displaced persons in their territories while respecting the relevant international norms.

The Committee made an urgent appeal to the international community and, in particular, the United Nations specialized agencies to provide greater support to the many refugees and displaced persons in Central Africa, and to the countries of asylum.

VII. Implementation of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa and briefing on the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

After reviewing the recommendations formulated by the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena from 25 to 27 October 1999, the Committee noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the countries of the subregion to implement them.

In particular, it welcomed the operations to disarm persons illegally possessing firearms, the organization of campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of firearms, the establishment in the various member countries of appropriate legislation governing the trade and ownership of firearms and the activities of private security firms, the strengthening of border controls, the organization of operations for the collection and destruction of weapons and measures taken to combat organized crime and roadblocks.

The Committee recommended that the member countries should intensify their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Conference and more generally to set up the struggle against the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, bearing in mind the dangers posed by this scourge to the peace, security, stability and development of the subregion.

The Committee took note with interest of the briefing on the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects made by Mr. Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh, expert from the Committee secretariat.

In particular, it welcomed the information concerning the incorporation in the draft programme of action to be submitted to the Conference of the recommendations of the Subregional Conference on the Proliferation of and Illicit Traffic in Small Arms in Central Africa, held in N'Djamena, and of the concerns set forth in the Bamako Declaration regarding the common African position on the proliferation, circulation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

It recommended that member countries should give appropriate instructions to their permanent missions to the United Nations at New York so that they would be able to participate actively in the various consultations on the draft programme of action in order to ensure that the concerns of the Central African countries are effectively taken into account.

The Committee urged the member countries to take an active part in the work of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects to be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 9 to 20 July 2001.

VIII. Date of the next meeting

The Committee decided to hold its sixteenth ministerial meeting in ..... in the second week of August 2001.

It also decided to hold the subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflicts prior to the sixteenth ministerial meeting.

IX. Other matters

The Committee urged member States to make regular contributions to the trust fund intended to finance its activities.

Lastly, the participants welcomed the favourable climate that had prevailed throughout their deliberations and expressed their appreciation to the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Pierre Buyoya, and to the Burundian Government and people for the warm welcome and fraternal attentions paid to them during their stay in Burundi.

Bujumbura, 20 April 2001

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Financing of the United Nations organization mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (A/55/935). During its consideration of the matter, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The mandate of MONUC is contained in paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000. In the same resolution, the Council authorized the expansion of the Mission to consist of up to 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 military observers. The mandate of MONUC has been extended by the Security Council in its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1332 (2000) of 14 December 2000, by which the Council extended the Mission's mandate until 15 June 2001. As indicated in paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report, the Secretary-General intends to submit to the Security Council a report by 15 June 2001, when the current mandate of MONUC expires. In this connection, it is envisaged to develop a third phase of MONUC deployment and a revised concept of operation for the Mission as early as mid-June 2001.

3. As indicated in the summary of the Secretary-General's report, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/260 A of 7 April 2000, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments with assessment for MONUC for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000 in an amount not exceeding $200 million gross ($199,760,000 net), inclusive of the initial amount of $41,011,200 gross ($40,771,200 net) previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the Mission in its letters to the Secretary-General of 24 November and 27 December 1999. Subsequently, by its resolution 54/260 B of 15 June 2000, the General Assembly decided to reduce the commitment authority provided for the operation of the

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Mission in its resolution 54/260 A to $58,681,000 gross ($58,441,000 net) for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000.

4. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 54/260 B, the General Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments with assessment for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 in an amount not exceeding $141,319,000 gross ($140,827,100 net), which represented the difference between the commitment authority of $200 million provided for in its resolution 54/260 A for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000 and the reduced commitment authority of $58,681,000 gross ($58,441,000 net). Furthermore, on 23 April 2001, the Advisory Committee granted additional commitment authority in the amount of $49,865,400 gross ($49,530,700 net) for the operation of MONUC for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

5. Total resources provided for MONUC since 6 August 1999 thus amount to $249,865,400 gross ($248,798,800 net). Of the total amount assessed for the Mission of $200 million, the Advisory Committee was informed that payments received amounted to $167.1 million as at 30 April 2001.

6. The report of the Secretary-General (A/55/935) contains the financial performance report of the Mission for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000, the proposed budget for the operations of MONUC for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and its estimated initial requirements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the performance report was not submitted separately (see paras. 8 and 9 below). Furthermore, the Committee notes that because of circumstances related to the United Nations involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as outlined in a number of reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and to the General Assembly, there has not been until now a formal budget for the period ending 30 June 2001. **However, in the view of the Committee, the current report submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session does not qualify as a proper budget document. The report does not contain sufficient information on many issues, including those related to the concept and structure of the Mission, posts and operational requirements. In the Committee's opinion, the data and narratives contained in the report are incomplete and do not provide the needed justification that would allow necessary consideration, by the Advisory Committee, of the Secretary-General's estimates. The Committee trusts that the next report of the Secretary-General on the financing of MONUC, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, will include a complete and fully justified budget for 2001/02, together with a full performance report for the period ending 30 June 2001. Under the circumstances, the views of the Committee on the financing of MONUC indicated in this report are of a preliminary nature.**

Financial performance report for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000

8. As indicated in table 1 of the report (A/55/935, para. 28), expenditures for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000 amounted to $55,271,400 gross ($54,835,700 net), inclusive of $32,342,300 in unliquidated obligations, reflecting a variance of $3,409,600 as compared with the apportionment of $58,681,000 authorized for the period.

9. The Advisory Committee notes the expenditure information provided in sections III.A and III.C of the report. **The Committee regrets that no explanation was provided in the report on the reasons for variations in expenditures as compared with apportionments for all items of the budget.**

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

10. As indicated in paragraph 45 of the report, for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, the proposed budget amounts to $273,119,600 gross ($270,085,600 net), inclusive of the commitment authority with assessment of $141,319,000 gross ($140,827,100 net) approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/260 B of 15 June 2000 and additional commitment authority without assessment of $49,865,400 gross ($49,530,700 net) granted by the Advisory Committee on 23 April 2001.

11. **In the view of the Advisory Committee, the proposed increase in requirements of $81,935,200 gross for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (i.e., from $191,184,400 gross to $273,119,600 gross) is not properly supported with convincing justifications.** The Advisory Committee was provided with preliminary expenditures for the period ending 30 June 2001, as at 31 March 2001, amounting to $137,656,000 (including $44.9 million in unliquidated obligations and $20.3 million in unliquidated pre-encumbrances). **Taking into account its observations as indicated below, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate a total of $232,119,600 gross for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (consisting of $191,184,400 already authorized and an additional $40,935,200) and that commitment authority (without assessment) be granted for $41 million gross representing the balance of the Secretary-General's request (see para. 26 below).**

12. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 58 of the Secretary-General's report that requirements for military personnel of $33,175,400 relate to the cost of the phased deployment of up to 2,446 military personnel, including up to 550 military observers. The Committee was informed that as at 30 April 2001, over 1,200 troops have been deployed to headquarters and sector locations. As regards the method of deployment, the Committee was informed that troops and equipment (contingent-owned equipment and United Nations-owned equipment) will be airlifted via Kinshasa/Goma logistics bases or directly to sector headquarters where airfields can accept heavy aircraft. Military observers and civilian staff will be deployed by commercial airlines to the mission area.

13. Resources under civilian personnel amount to $28,790,500 for salaries and related costs for the phased deployment of staff up to a level of 663 civilian personnel, comprising 338 international staff (144 Professional, 33 General Service and 161 Field Service staff) and 325 local staff by 30 June 2001. **With respect to the proposed staffing and post grades, the Committee, owing to the difficulties referred to in paragraph 7 above, is not in a position to pronounce itself on the level of the staff and its structure. It will do so when a full budget is presented in the context of the requirements for the period ending 30 June 2002. In the meantime, the Committee is of the view that in managing the provisional staffing table, the Secretary-General should take fully into account its**

observations as contained in documents A/54/875, paragraphs 8 and 9, and A/54/842, paragraphs 10 and 11.

14. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that, pending submission of a proper budget for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, which would take into account the review of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 2 above, that authority be granted to enter into contractual arrangements with staff up to one year in order to avoid disruption in the conduct of MONUC operations. Staff employed against posts which eventually are not approved would be accommodated against vacancies until the expiry of their contracts, if necessary. The Secretary-General would be allowed to proceed with the redeployment of posts among various offices of the Mission, although the staffing table has not yet been approved for the periods from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.**

15. The Advisory Committee notes from section IV.B of the report that the planned deployment of civilian personnel for the period ending 30 June 2001 includes nine high-level posts (1 USG, 1 ASG, 3 D-2, 4 D-1). Upon request, the Committee was informed that, as at 10 May 2001, five high-level posts were encumbered. **The Committee recognizes that the Secretary-General should have authority to manage the staffing of the Mission with flexibility, as indicated in paragraph 13 above. The Committee nevertheless reiterates its view that it should not be assumed that the General Assembly would approve a requested post at the level of an incumbent temporarily placed against a vacant post (see A/55/839, para. 33 and A/55/874, para. 39).**

16. Provisions under operational requirements amount to $207,708,400 and include premises/accommodation ($11,451,500), infrastructure repairs ($5,130,000), transport operations ($37,534,100), air operations ($63,295,500), communications ($26,139,600), other equipment ($22,362,700), supplies and services ($9,010,000) and air and surface freight ($32,785,000). The estimates include an amount of $133,590,400 in non-recurrent costs (A/55/935, para. 64 and section IV.G).

17. As indicated in section IV.C, summary statement, and paragraph 69 of the report, a provision of $63,295,500 for an air transport fleet comprising 35 aircraft (8 helicopters and 27 fixed-wing aircraft under long-term commercial and letter-of-assist arrangements) would be required. The Advisory Committee recalls that $26,973,700 was requested for this purpose as part of the commitment authority of $49,865,400 granted by the Committee on 23 April 2001 for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

18. During the hearings, the Advisory Committee was provided with revised air transport fleet requirements, as at 10 May 2001, comprising 29 aircraft (10 helicopters and 19 fixed-wing aircraft). The Committee was informed of changes in the number and composition of the heavy-cargo aircraft. As at 10 May 2001, 25 aircraft had been positioned and were operating throughout the mission region. The Committee was informed that the air transport capacity is not being fully utilized. **Given this fact, and taking into account the nearly $27 million already provided for air operations (which was based on a fleet of 35), the Advisory Committee queries the rationale for an increase of nearly $40 million for the air transport fleet.**

19. Given the geographical size of the area of MONUC operations and the lack of sound transportation infrastructure in the mission area, the Advisory Committee recognizes that the provision of air assets is a critical component for the successful operation of the Mission. The Committee also sees the justification to start processing air operation contracts to ensure timely availability of air support when the Mission requires it. The Committee is, however, concerned by the apparent placement of an extensive air support capacity before it would seem to be needed in full. **The Committee recommends that a careful review be made of the timing of the activation of the additional aircraft now under contractual processing, with particular attention to the timing of the heavy-lift capacity.**

20. **The Advisory Committee recommends further that an effective adequate mission capacity be installed to monitor the use of air assets. The Committee is also of the opinion that arrangements should be in place to ensure appropriate and timely reimbursement for air support services provided by MONUC to other partners in the mission area.**

21. As indicated in paragraph 76 of the report, provision for supplies and services of $9,010,000 includes requirements of $5,697,600 for contractual services. The Advisory Committee was informed that a number of service contracts have already been approved. These include contracts for fuel, water, air support services, engineering support, communications and data-processing services and other services. **The Committee requests that detailed information on all service contracts for MONUC should be given to it when it takes up the estimate for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 during the autumn of 2001.**

22. **The Committee recommends that, in the context of the next budget submission, at least four Professional posts be provided for mission resident auditors for headquarters and the sectors, as appropriate, in view of the need to have in place an effective means to ensure proper control of mission resources and assets.**

23. Provision of $411,300 for other programmes includes $300,000 for quick-impact projects. The Advisory Committee was informed that for large missions such as MONUC it was planned to apportion about $1 million for small-scale projects (costing up to $15,000) to cover immediate assistance under the guidelines for quick-impact projects (see A/55/688/Add.1, annex II). In view of the fact that activities in MONUC are just commencing, the balance of $700,000 was anticipated to be sought as part of the budget for the period 2001/02. The Advisory Committee notes that specific projects are not proposed in the budget of the Mission. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee reiterates its view that, if available, information on quick-impact projects be reflected in the relevant budget reports and that the Secretary-General report on their implementation in the performance reports (A/55/874, para. 56).

24. The Advisory Committee trusts that there will be an effective and adequate mechanism to share information and to coordinate the activities and programmes of the United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with those of external partners to ensure the optimum use of the resources provided by the United Nations system and other partners to implement the mandate of MONUC. **The Committee requests that appropriate information on this issue should be included in the next budget submission of the Secretary-General, including a full description of the planning process for coordination with an indication of**

the division of responsibilities for such planning as between Headquarters and the field.

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001

25. Section V of the Secretary-General's report includes the initial estimates for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001 to cover requirements for the operations of MONUC. As indicated in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the report, in view of the situation in the mission area at the time of the submission of the budget report, and with the possibility of an expansion of the mandate of the Mission (phase III) (see S/2001/373, paras. 93-97), resources are being requested in the amount of $209,965,600 gross ($204,788,900 net) for a six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2001 to be provided under commitment authority with assessment. Provisions are included for the deployment of 2,450 military personnel, including 550 military observers, as well as to cover the requirements of a proposed provisional staffing complement of 1,631 civilian posts (752 international, 733 local and 146 United Nations Volunteers). As indicated in paragraphs 13 to 15 above, the Advisory Committee has not reviewed in detail the proposed staffing table of MONUC. It expects to review fully the proposed staffing table for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001 in the context of the budget report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. **Since actual requirements for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 are likely to be far in excess of the amount that has been requested by the Secretary-General, and in keeping with its view that ex post facto appropriation of amounts already assessed should, if possible, be avoided, the Advisory Committee recommends an initial appropriation with assessment of $200 million for the financial period.**

Conclusion

26. **With respect to the action proposed by the Secretary-General, in paragraph 89 of his report on the financing of MONUC, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, approve the following:**

(a) The appropriation of $58,681,000 gross ($58,441,000 net), previously authorized as commitments by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/260 B of 15 June 2000 for the establishment and operation of the Mission for the period from 6 August 1999 to 30 June 2000;

(b) The application of the unencumbered balance of $3,409,600 gross ($3,605,300 net) for the period ending 30 June 2000 to the ensuing period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;

(c) The appropriation of $232,119,600 gross ($229,085,600 net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 inclusive of the amount of $141,319,000 gross ($140,827,100 net) previously authorized as commitments for MONUC by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/260 B of 15 June 2000 and the commitment authority of $49,865,400 gross ($49,530,700 net) granted by the Advisory Committee on 23 April 2001;

(d) The assessment of $90,800,600 gross ($88,258,500 net) for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, in addition to the amount of $141,319,000 gross ($140,827,100 net) previously assessed in this period under the terms of General Assembly resolution 54/260 B;

(e) The commitment, without assessment, of $41 million gross and net for the period ending 30 June 2001 (see para. 11 above);

(f) The appropriation and assessment of an initial amount of $200 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001, pending submission of a full budget for the financing of MONUC for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.